

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WARNING: INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FULLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE
REPORT CLASS: 08 JULY 1987
DIST: USSR
COUNTRY: USSR
SUBJ: CORRECTIVE LABOR CAMPS LOCATED IN KARAGANDA OBLAST
DOI: 1976
SOURCE:

TEXT: 1

2. IN 1976, THE ADMINISTRATION OF CORRECTIVE WORK ESTABLISHMENTS UNDER THE ADMINISTRATION OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE KARAGANDA OBLAST' (UPRAVLENIYE ISPRAVITELNO TRUDOVOY LAGER PRI UPRAVLENIY V.O. KARAGANDINSKOY OBLASTI) SUPERVISED THE OPERATION OF LIGHT INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION IN FIVE PENAL CAMPS LOCATED IN THE KARAGANDA AREA. TWO OF THE CAMPS, DESIGNATED AK-40-1 AND AK-40-2, WERE LOCATED NEAR THE VILLAGE OF DOLINSK ABOUT 30 KILOMETERS (KM) NORTHWEST OF KARAGANDA. TWO OTHER CAMPS, DESIGNATED AK-39 AND LTP, WERE SITUATED NEAR THE VILLAGE OF KARABAS ABOUT 25 KM SOUTHWEST OF KARAGANDA. THE FIFTH CAMP, DESIGNATION UNRECALLED, WAS LOCATED ABOUT 150 KM NORTHEAST OF KARAGANDA. EACH CAMP HELD ABOUT 400 PRISONERS. THE DESIGNATOR "AK" WAS DERIVED BY TRANSPOSING THE FIRST TWO LETTERS OF THE WORD "KARAGANDA", WHILE THE DESIGNATION "LTP" STOOD FOR WORK TREATMENT DISPENSARY (LECHEBNO-TRUDOVOY PROFILAKTORIY).

3. CAMPS AK-40-1, AK-40-2, AND THE UNRECALLED CAMP LOCATED NORTHEAST OF KARAGANDA WERE "GENERAL REGIME" CAMPS FOR PRISONERS WHO HAD COMMITTED LESSER CRIMES, WHILE CAMP AK-39 WAS A "STRICT REGIME" CAMP FOR THOSE WHO HAD COMMITTED MORE SERIOUS CRIMES SUCH AS MURDER.

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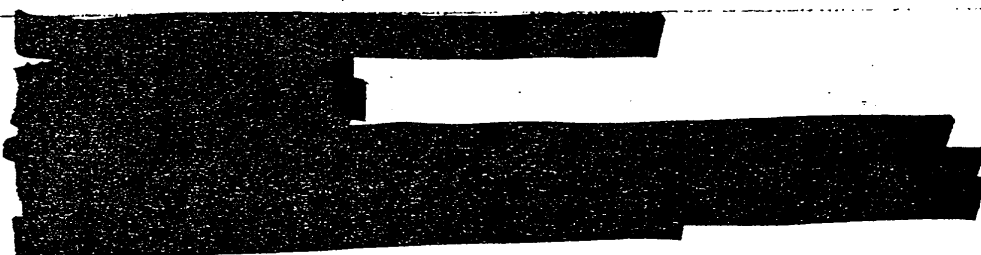
CAMP AK-40-1 WAS FOR FEMALE PRISONERS ONLY, WHILE CAMP LTP-A HELD MEN WHO HAD SERIOUS DRINKING PROBLEMS. THE TERMS "CORRECTIVE LABOR CAMP" (ISPRAVITELNO TRUDOVOY LAGER--ITL) AND "CORRECTIVE LABOR ESTABLISHMENT" (ISPRAVITELNO TRUDOVOY UCHREZHDENIYA--ITU) WERE USED INTERCHANGEABLY WHEN REFERRING TO THE CAMPS. PRISONERS IN GENERAL REGIME CAMPS WERE ALLOWED MORE PARCELS FROM FRIENDS AND RELATIVES, WERE ALLOWED MORE FREQUENT VISITORS, AND HAD SOMEWHAT BETTER LIVING CONDITIONS AND FOOD THAN THOSE INCARCERATED IN STRICT REGIME CAMPS. THE AVERAGE SENTENCE FOR GENERAL REGIME PRISONERS WAS 1-5 YEARS, WHILE STRICT REGIME INMATES USUALLY SERVED 10 YEARS OR MORE.

4. STRICT REGIME CAMP AK-39 HELD ABOUT 400 PRISONERS AND WAS DIVIDED INTO A LIVING ZONE AND A WORK ZONE. THE CAMP WAS SURROUNDED BY A WALL PLUS TWO OR THREE BARBED WIRE FENCES. THE FENCES WERE NOT ELECTRIFIED, BUT GUARDS PATROLLED BETWEEN TWO OF THE FENCES, AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES HAD BEEN INSTALLED TO DETECT ANY MOVEMENT. THE GUARDS EMPLOYED AT THIS CAMP AND AT OTHER CAMPS IN THE AREA WERE MVD PERSONNEL, MOST OF WHOM HAD BEEN RAISED IN THE KARAGANDA AREA. THE CAMP CONSISTED OF AN ADMINISTRATION BUILDING LOCATED OUTSIDE THE CAMP COMPOUND, 3-4 LONG BUILDINGS WHERE THE PRISONERS SLEPT, A MESS HALL AND PRISONERS' CLUB IN THE LIVING ZONE, AND A LARGE PRODUCTION BUILDING AND POSSIBLY SEVERAL SMALLER BUILDINGS IN THE WORK ZONE. PRISONERS WERE REQUIRED TO WORK IN THE PRODUCTION BUILDING AND WERE PAID A SMALL DAILY WAGE WHICH WAS HELD FOR THEM PENDING THEIR RELEASE FROM PRISON. AS FAR AS WAS KNOWN, ALL CORRECTIVE CAMPS MANUFACTURED SOME ITEM OR ITEMS. CAMP AK-39 PRODUCED SOFAS, MATTRESSES, AND PLOWS, WHILE CAMP AK-40-1, WHICH HELD FEMALE PRISONERS, MANUFACTURED ITEMS OF CLOTHING SUCH AS PADDED COTTON JACKETS AND GLOVES. ALCOHOLICS ASSIGNED TO CAMP LTP-A WORKED ON THE PRODUCTION OF CONVEYOR SYSTEMS FOR USE IN MANUFACTURING PLANTS. THIS CAMP PRODUCED 800-1,000 METERS (M) OF CONVEYOR SECTIONS PER YEAR, FOR WHICH THE GOVERNMENT PAID 200-300 RUBLES PER METER. CAMP LTP-A WORKERS PRODUCED THE BEST QUALITY PRODUCT OF ANY OF THE CORRECTIVE LABOR CAMPS IN THE KARAGANDA AREA, ALTHOUGH THE INMATES THERE WERE ALCOHOLICS, MANY OF THEM WERE SKILLED LABORERS WITH APPROPRIATE MACHINE SHOP EXPERIENCE.

5. THE QUALITY OF THE CLOTHING AND FURNITURE PRODUCED AT THE OTHER CAMPS WAS EXTREMELY POOR, AND THESE ITEMS WERE DISTRIBUTED FOR USE BY WORKERS ON STATE AND COLLECTIVE FARMS. AS FAR AS WAS KNOWN, NONE OF THE PRODUCTS OF THE CAMPS WERE EXPORTED. THE PLOWS MANUFACTURED IN CAMP AK-39 WERE OF ALL-STEEL CONSTRUCTION, AND ALL PARTS USED IN THIS DEVICE WERE BUILT BY THE PRISONERS. THE PLOWS WERE ABOUT 1.5 M IN HEIGHT AND THE BLADES WERE ABOUT 1.5 M LONG. EACH PLOW BORE AN UNRECALLED IDENTIFICATION MARKING INSTALLED AT THE CAMP. APPROXIMATELY 2,500 PLOWS OF THIS TYPE WERE CONSTRUCTED AT CAMP AK-39 EACH YEAR. [REDACTED] COMMENT: NO EXCAVATING MACHINERY OR LIGHTING FIXTURES WERE MANUFACTURED AT ANY OF THE CAMPS IN THE KARAGANDA AREA.)

6. PRISONERS IN THE CAMPS WERE BELIEVED TO HAVE WORKED EIGHT HOURS PER DAY, SIX DAYS PER WEEK. WORKING CONDITIONS WERE CONSIDERED TO BE POOR BECAUSE OF INADEQUATE LIGHTING AND EXCESSIVE NOISE. SHORTAGES OF MATERIAL OCCURRED FROM TIME TO TIME, PARTICULARLY WITH SHEET AND BAR STEEL, AND TRANSPORTATION WAS ALWAYS A PROBLEM. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE LTP-A CAMP, NO PARTICULAR EFFORTS WERE KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN MADE TO MATCH THE SKILLS OF PRISONERS TO THE JOB. EACH CAMP HAD A PARTICULARLY TOUGH INMATE (POKHAN) WHO ELECTED HIMSELF AS LEADER OF THE PRISONERS AND HELD THIS POSITION UNTIL A TOUGHER INMATE APPEARED ON THE SCENE. THE POKHAN KEPT THE PRISONERS IN LINE AND ACTUALLY BARGAINED WITH THE CHIEF ENGINEER IN THE CAMP REGARDING THE TYPE AND AMOUNT OF WORK TO BE DONE BY THE PRISONERS. BECAUSE OF THE BARGAINING POWER WIELDED BY THE POKHAN, THIS INDIVIDUAL WAS USUALLY ABLE TO OBTAIN BETTER LIVING CONDITIONS FOR HIMSELF AND HIS LIEUTENANTS.

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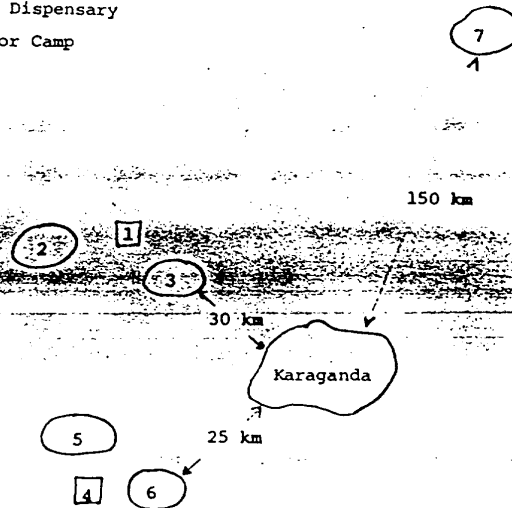
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Enclosure 1. Sketch of General Location of Corrective Labor Camps Administered
By Karaganda Oblast.

Attachment 1 of 3

LEGEND:

- 1 - Village of Dolkina
- 2 - Corrective Labor Camp AK-40-1
- 3 - Corrective Labor Camp AK-40-2
- 4 - Village of Karabas
- 5 - Corrective Labor Camp AK-39
- 6 - Work-Treatment Dispensary
- 7 - Corrective Labor Camp



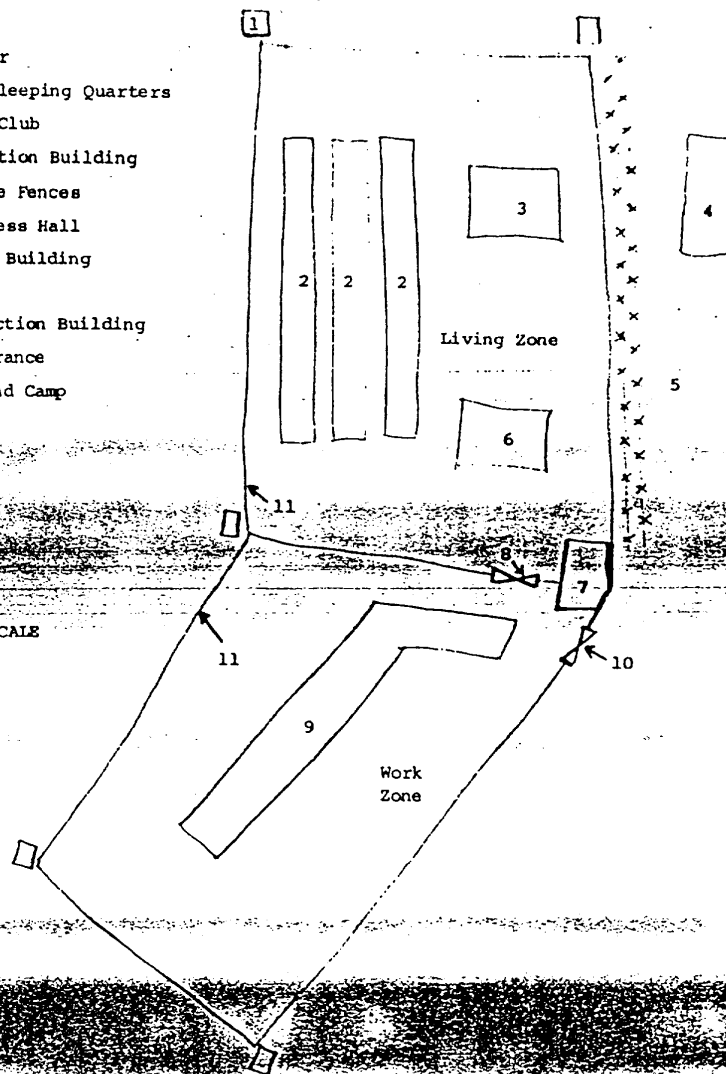
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LEGEND:

- 1 - Guard Tower
- 2 - Prisoner Sleeping Quarters
- 3 - Prisoners Club
- 4 - Administration Building
- 5 - Barbed Wire Fences
- 6 - Prisoner Mess Hall
- 7 - Camp Entry Building
- 8 - Gate
- 9 - Camp Production Building
- 10 - Truck Entrance
- 11 - Wall Around Camp

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Attachment 3 of 3 [REDACTED]
Enclosure J. Sketch of Agricultural Plow Manufactured at Camp AK-39, Kpralas.

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